

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Mayor Pro tem Emerson Hunt	
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilman Michael Baker
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	Trey Cooper, Fire Chief
Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk	
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	
James Brogdon, City Attorney	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed citizens, guest and the press.

**3. RESOLUTION – A RESOLUTION TO INDEMNIFY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
AND FIRE CHIEF FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COSTS INCURRED**

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to accept the Resolution. A brief discussion by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried.

4. **2ND READING ORDINANCE 20-08, ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT MINI EXCAVATOR**

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to accept the Ordinance 20-08, Ordinance to enter into lease-purchase agreement mini excavator. The motion carried.

5. **BIDS/ QUOTATIONS ON TRACKHOE / EXCAVATOR – PUBLIC WORKS**

Mayor mentioned this is for a large excavator. Seven bids were received for this excavator. The Mayor stated that his suggestion would be Kobelco. Financial options are on paperwork but they are all monthly installments and historically we have done annual installments. A brief discussion was discussed concerning finance. *A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to accept Kobelco. The motion carried.*

6. **1ST READING ORDINANCE 20-09, ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT EXCAVATOR**

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried.

7. **CITY RE-OPENING PLAN DISCUSSION**

Mayor stated they got some guidance from the State from a check list. Recreation department is looking at starting practice June 1st and games on June 15th, and Mayor thinks that is ok because it has been ok by the State. Mayor stated that we are looking at opening the pool June 1st. However

there are limitations on the number of persons that can be in the pool. So what we are looking at is having two sessions. First session starting 10 a.m. Until 12 noon. Based on the square footage we can only have 30 people. That is 27 people and three life guards. We want to stay within the guidelines so we will close for 2 hours for sanitation and then have lunch then open for the 2nd session from 2p.m. until 4p.m. Mayor stated that his thought process is to keep up with who is coming in from 10 to 12. We can't have any repeat swimmers. This has been approved from the CDC and this is the way that they say we should do it. A brief discussion took place concerning the pool and pandemic. Councilman Frazier started off by saying he thinks that the pool should be closed down for the summer. Councilman Baker and Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt agreed also. ***A motion was made Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to close the pool for the rest of the summer.*** The motion carried.

City Hall is looking at limited access like what was done before. Starting business license renewals and there will be individuals that would come in our front lobby and the hallway blocked off. Mayor stated that we will make precautions for Ainsley we already have a glass sleeve up and does have a peeping hole and we will put something over that. So we do want to do limited access for City Hall just in case some want to enter in to pay their business license.

The aerobics has been going on at Shannon Wilkerson Gym. They are spaced out and Mayor don't see a problem with them doing that and that is something that they can handle he stated. They are following CDC guidelines.

Mayor is recommending that we do not rentals on any of our buildings and we will come back and address it in June as well move more toward July, to include Opera House, Shannon Wilkerson, CD Joyner, Watsonia, and Grices. July we will look at kind of trying to phase in some of those facilities. We will have to have at least one business day between them at that point in time. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier not to rent any Public buildings until further review.*** The motion carried.

8. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mayor stated that in the packet everyone should have received the budget workshop for the City of Marion, Hospitality tax. Mayor went over a few highlights in the Budget first. He stated that in the fund balance we balanced with \$ 573,268.00 for 2021, and in doing so to show a comparison we balanced the budget in 2019-2020 we budgeted \$ 451,538.00. Mayor stated you might ask why is it up. He stated that we had a 4% increase in health insurance on all employees and that was an increase and we are looking at police cars for the Police Department probably not going towards dodge chargers because they are just a high maintenance items. We are also looking at some more software for our Code Enforcement Officer. The software that they are looking at works off of iPad and GPS software. Code Enforcement Officer can go and stand on the lot and tell whose lot it is and take picture and save in the software, and in doing so the information can be sent to Vickie and print out grass letter. Software is about \$6,000.00 and we are going to have to get an iPad for him. Mayor also stated that we are

doing a 3% cost of living raise for all of our City employees. Mayor stated that we are going to have to do something for our first responders; Police Department and Fire Department. Fire Department will be getting a five percent cost of living adjustment. The total raise for salaries to about \$ 91,000.00 which is what that 3% and 5% detail. We have another month to go but in current physical year 2019-2020 year we used \$ 454,000.00 out of our fund balance and this year we might not even have to go into our fund balance. A brief discussion was made concerning the fund balance and cost of living. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve raises for employees.*** The motion carried.

Mayor presented stormwater fee budget. The projected amount should be about \$189,000.00. The funds are paying for employees and Vacuum truck. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve stormwater fee as presented.*** The motion carried.

Mayor presented the hospitality tax budget. The first three quarter of the page is normally what we do every year and this year we are including an install of a digital billboard right at the CVS and train station / Chamber Depo. New items are Digital Sign (\$35,000.00), Grappler Truck (\$25,000.00) and Bathrooms at Down Town Commons (\$45,000.00), Lion's Park Picnic Shelter (\$60,000.00). A brief discussion was made concerning businesses shut down and delay in projects. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve hospitality budget.*** The motion carried.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor stated that one other discussion was discussion on June 9, 2020 meeting to be teleconference or in person and Council decided to have it teleconference and proposing the June 11, 2020 to be open to the public in Shannon Wilkerson Gym. Attorney will research and see for the ones that are uncomfortable can maybe be on teleconference call system for them.

A motion was made by Council Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to adjourn.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk
Taped: May 19, 2020